

Appl. No. 09/775,281

Response dated November 11, 2003

Reply to Office Action of August 13, 2003

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-6 (Previously canceled)

Claim 7 (Previously Presented): A medical device inventory and production control system synchronous with various phases of product manufacturing for standard, customized and newly approved, modified/redesigned devices and to stock various consumption hubs including hospitals, sales offices, distributors and sales representatives on a just-in-time basis under a build to order and build to replenish production scheme, the system comprising:

a Web-enabled information network being in data communications with manufacturing, shipping/delivery and the various consumption hubs; and

at least one programmer being in a bi-directional communications link with the Web-enabled information network; and

at least one device implanted in a patient taken out of one of the consumption hubs, and having a wireless communication with the programmer to thereby route device information to the Web-enabled information network.

Claim 8 (Original): A method for managing medical device inventory and production to coordinate and maintain a just-in-time inventory on a build-to-order production scheme wherein a manufacturing process and sales/distribution hubs are synchronized to track the medical device at all points in the product manufacture, sale, delivery and implantation chain, the method comprising:

providing a Web-enabled information network having bi-directional data communications with the hubs;

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maintaining an inventory of the medical devices at the hubs and at a manufacturing facility;

updating a hub's inventory when a medical device is consumed by implementing a build-to-order and build-to-replenish scheme; and

maintaining device identity and associated patient information via a programmer interface.

Claim 9 (Previously Presented): A system for manufacturing build-to-order implantable medical devices, comprising:

an implantable medical device manufacturing assembly facility;

a data center collecting information about inventory status at an implantable medical device implanting institution; and

a manufacturing computer server at an implantable medical device manufacturing site;

the server being in interactive communication with the data center to download inventory status information; and

the server being in communication with the implantable medical device manufacturing assembly facility to initiate manufacture of a build-to-order implantable medical device.